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cient aid, and warm appreciation were never wanting to those engaged in scientific investigation or in literary labor.

Mr. Lee was a man of sterling integrity, and of a high sense of honor. In private life, and to a large circle of kindred and friends, he was endeared by those traits of character which are the ornament and joy of home and of refined and cultivated society. His kind offices were never wanting where there was the need or the opportunity for them. It is hardly enough to say that he was unselfish. He probably would not have claimed this praise. But he had so large and comprehensive a self-love, that it could be satisfied only when he had contributed to the utmost of his ability to the happiness of those around him, of whatever age or condition. He was thus loved and honored in life, and for not a few his death seems an irreparable loss.

#### JOHN MUDGE MERRICK, S.B.

JOHN MUDGE MERRICK, of Walpole, was the youngest son of the late Rev. John Mudge Merrick. He was born at the Swift Hotel, in West Sandwich, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, April 12, 1838, at which place his father was then settled over the Unitarian Society.

Shortly after the birth of his son, Mr. Merrick was called to the church at Walpole, where he was settled for many years.

In 1857 Mr. Merrick entered the chemical department of the Lawrence Scientific School, and he was graduated from there *summa cum laude* in 1859. After graduating he served for one year as assistant to Professor Horsford.

In 1862 he was appointed principal of the High School at Natick. He left this place to take a similar position at Canton, in the spring of 1864. Leaving Canton in 1865 he filled the position of Submaster in the New Bedford High School until the summer of 1867. During his vacations he spent his time in chemical work, and on leaving New Bedford he accepted the position of Superintendent of the Boston Diatite Company. In 1868 he commenced his active professional life as an analytical and consulting chemist in the city of Boston, and from that time until within a few days of his early death he was steadily employed at commercial chemistry.

During this time he was a constant contributor to the chemical journals, both at home and abroad. He was also one of the contributors to Johnson's Cyclopaedia. In 1874 he was elected Professor of Chemistry in the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

Mr. Merrick's published contributions to chemistry have been in the form of short notes on working processes, rather than the results of any extended investigations. His extended investigations, the most prominent of which are on the nature of aniline black, on nickel-plating, and on bronzing articles of iron by coating them with linseed-oil and then subjecting them to a high temperature, have never been published, except in the records of the United States Courts. It was largely through his exertions that the optical method of testing the value of sugar has been introduced into commercial use in this city.

Besides his contributions to chemistry, he wrote many articles for the daily papers on matters of passing interest.

He was an active member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and wrote and published a valuable essay on the cultivation of the strawberry. He also made a number of experiments on the production of wine from our common American grapes.

In 1875 he was elected a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

In 1874 he published, under the title of "*Nugæ Inutiles*," a collection of translations into Latin of many of the popular songs of the day.

Quiet and reticent in his manners, few were admitted to his intimate friendship, and it was only after long acquaintance that his worth was appreciated. Ambitious to do thoroughly good scientific work, he was hampered by the necessity of struggling for a living, and he had just commenced to see his way clear before him, when a promising career was cut short by his sudden death. He died at Walpole on the 25th day of February, 1879, of pneumonia, after a short illness, having been previously worn out by watching at the bedside of one of his children.

He was married in August, 1863, to Fannie, daughter of Smith Gray, of Walpole, who, with three children, survives him. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family, an only brother, his father, and his mother all having died within a few years.

#### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN THOMAS.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN THOMAS was born in Boston, on Feb. 12, 1813, and, entering Brown University at the age of thirteen, graduated there in 1830. He studied his profession at the Law School of Harvard College, remaining there until 1832. Choosing Worcester as his residence, he was long distinguished as a member of the bar of that county, and held various local offices of honor and trust. In 1842 he